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July 3, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The 11th Annual Navajo Nation Council Delegate Horse Ride scheduled for July 11-15, 2007

*Council delegates Leslie Dele, Larry Noble and Jerry Bodie made it their mission to
preserve the background of traditional Navajo Horse Ride to the Navajo Council Chambers*

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Council delegate Leslie Dele (Tonalea) will pay tribute to his grandfather and Navajo elder statesman when he saddles up his three-year-old sorrel stud horse named “Spirit,” for the 11th Annual Navajo Nation Council Delegate Horse Ride that is scheduled for July 11th-15, 2007.

The annual event founded by Dele is organized so that council delegates from the four cardinal directions ride their horses to the Navajo Nation Council Chambers located at the Navajo Nation Capitol, Window Rock, Ariz.

“When we ride, we are honoring our past leaders,” Dele said, adding that he and fellow council delegate, Larry Noble (Steamboat/Jeddito/Low Mountain) and Jerry Bodie (Sanostee) are organizing this year’s ride.

Noble along with other horse riders will gather at the Kitsillie Chapter House on July 11th, and Jerry Bodie and his riders will gather at the Nageezi Chapter House during the evening of July 10th.

Dele said he saddles up a horse, and treks from Tonalea, Ariz., his home community to the Navajo Nation Capitol for the Navajo Council’s summer session.

“I look forward to it,” Dele said. “I honor my past leaders by going through the whole hardship, what they felt when they traveled on horseback to the Navajo Council Chambers.”

Dele estimates that it takes about three and a half days to travel from Tonalea, Ariz. to Piñon, Ariz. He said the horse riders usually stay at fellow council delegate Tom LaPahe’s house at (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whippoorwill).

Dele’s co-founder of the annual Summer Session Council Delegate Horse Ride is Larry Noble (Steamboat).

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“We commemorate the Navajo leaders and all those involved with tribal government since the early 1920s,” Noble said, noting that the annual ride to the council chambers is special because it’s a “kinship trail.” “When we met each other on the horse trail. It was an endeavor.”

Noble’s thoughts take him back to the rugged horse ride trail, and reflects on the wonderfulness of Navajo Territory. “It’s so beautiful out there. We have beautiful country.”

He said that the annual horse ride enables him to observe how Navajo people have seemingly lost their reverence for the land, and he advocates that Navajos don’t litter.

“Through his ride, I have more respect for the land,” said Noble who is in his fourth term as a council delegate. “We’ve seen a lot of trash and illegal dumping through this annual ride. We need to relate that to our culture, we are supposed to walk in beauty. In reality, we are walking in trash.”

Noble said through the annual ride he has deepened his respect for the land, and tries to work toward advocating for improving the landscape and road.

Bodie will saddle up his three-year-old male colt named, “Bucko,” and begin his ride at the Negeezi Chapter House during the morning of June 10, 2007

Bodie who is in his ninth year of riding he enjoys himself when he rides.

“I love it!” Bodie said. “I love riding horses.”

Bodie keeps very busy with council delegate work said he’s “outdoorsy,” and misses his work as a rancher and farmer.

“I’m content riding in the outdoors even when it’s hot,” Bodie said with a smile.

11th Annual Navajo Nation Council Summer Session Horse
Ride
Western Horse Ride
SCHEDULE
Past, Present, Future
Naat' áaní

July 11-18, 2007
Contact Person:
Leslie Dele
Tonalea Chapter Council Delegate
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DAY 1, July 11, 2007 Wednesday

Horse Ride will Begin at Tonalea Chapter after a Short Ceremony 8:30 am, all riders be on time, Lunch half way between Hardrock Chapter, and will be arriving at Hardrock Chapter around 6:00 pm, meet with Community, supper, camp

DAY 2, July 12, 2007 Thursday

Breakfast 6:00am. At Hardrock Chapter, Saddle up for Pinon around 9:00 am. Lunch half way between Pinon Chapter, and will be arrive at Pinon Chapter around 6:00 pm. Meet with the Community supper, camp

DAY 3, July 13, 2007 Friday

Breakfast 6:00 am at Pinon Chapter. Leave for Salina-Cottonwood at 8:00 am and have Lunch at Salina Old Trading Post. Camp half way between Salina and Nazlini.

DAY 4, July 14, 2007 Saturday

Breakfast at 6:00am, saddle up and head for Nazlini Community. Lunch on horse back, a non-stop trip to Nazlini Community and arriving around 6:00 pm supper. Make camp.

DAY 5, July 15, 2007 Sunday

Breakfast at 6:00am at Nazlini Chapter. Cowboy Sunday Service 7:00am, After service, Embark on trek to Window Rock, Ariz.. Lunch is at noon at Summit, head for Window Rock Fair Grounds after lunch.

DAY 6, July 16, 2007; Monday; Breakfast at 6:00am.at the Fair Ground.
8:30 am. Saddle up ride to the Navajo Nation Council Chamber, End of the Horse Ride.

Contact:
Jerry Bodie, Council Delegate, Trail Boss
Sanostee Chapter
Cell # (505)860-1407

11th Annual Council Delegate Horse Ride
(North/Northeastern Ride)

Fellow Council Delegates and guest riders.

This summer the 11th annual horse ride will begin from Nageezi Chapter House on the morning of June 10, 2007.

Day 1 July 10, 2007, Tuesday

We will gather at Nageezi Chapter House on the evening of July 9, 2007. The ride is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 10, 2007 after the ceremony. We will arrive at Counselor Chapter House at noon for lunch provided by the community after lunch we will head out to Ojo Encino Chapter House. We will spend the night at Ojo Encino Chapter House where dinner will be served by the community.

Day 2 July 11, 2007, Wednesday

We will start out from Ojo Encino after breakfast, provided by the community. We will arrive at Pueblo Pintado Chapter House for noon lunch. After lunch we will head out to Ojo Encino Chapter House. We will spend the night at Ojo Encino Chapter House where dinner will be served by the community.

Day 3 July 12, 2007, Thursday

We will start out from Whitehorse Lake Chapter House after breakfast and go Southwest from the chapter toward Borrego Pass through Private Baca Ranch. Lunch will be on our own after we pass through the private ranch. We are scheduled to go there toward Casamero Lake Chapter via through Bodie's Private ranch. Dinner will be provided at Casamero Lake Chapter House by the community. We will spend the night there at the Casamero Chapter House.

Day 4, July 13, 2007, Friday

We will leave after Breakfast and arrive at Smith Lake Chapter house for mid-morning break.

Noon lunch will be provided at Mariano Lake Chapter House by the community;. We will be arriving late afternoon at Pinedale Chapter House where we will have dinner provided by the community. We are scheduled to spend the night there.

Day 5, July 14, 2007, Saturday

We will start off again after breakfast toward Mexican Spring Chapter House. Lunch will be on our own on the mountain just before going down off the

mountain toward Mexican Spring Chapter House. Dinner will be provided by Mexican Spring Chapter House community and we will spend the night there.

Final Day: July 6, 2007 Sunday

We will start out late in the morning, since it's not too far to Window Rock from Mexican Spring Chapter House. We will be riding through rough rocky mountain road. We will come out to Hwy. 264 just east of Tse Be Ne Toh just before 5 p.m. We will ride into Window Rock Fair Grounds at 5 p.m.

Anyone can come and join us on this ride, but they are responsible for the care of their own tack and animals. Each person/family is also responsible for their own bedding, tent and any items necessary to complete the horse ride into Window Rock. Everyone is encouraged to practice personal safety and for their mounts. As the sponsor of this Annual Council Delegate Horse Ride, from Negeezi Chapter House to Window Rock, we are not responsible for accidents, injuries or lots of any items.

Thank you.

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